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(54)(57) A VERTEBRAL COLUMN IMMOBILIZATION LOCK which consists of a support with restraining elements is characterized in that in order to enable correction and stable immobilization of the vertebrae by preventing their rotation in the frontal and sagittal planes, the support is designed as a wedge and is supplied with a connecting serrated lamella.

This invention is in the area of medicine, particularly orthopedics and traumatology, and can be used for surgically correcting deformities and stabilizing the intervertebral joints in the cases of scoliosis, cyphosis, osteochondrosis, and other vertebrae disease.

A vertebral column immobilization lock is known; it contains a parallelepiped-shaped support equipped with immobilizing elements shaped as parabolic protrusions with cutting edges sloping at an angle to the parallelepiped's longitudinal axis.

Yet the aforementioned device cannot correct such deformities as angular misalignments of the bodies of adjacent vertebrae that are typical of scoliosis, cyphosis, and osteochondrosis of the vertebral column. This is due to the fact that the device is designed as a parallelepiped. Furthermore, due to certain design features of the restraining and stabilizing elements, the device can effectively resist only shear loads in the sagittal plane but has no stabilizing effect against the torque action that rotates the vertebrae in the frontal and sagittal planes, i.e., cannot ensure fully immobilized contact between vertebrae in an arthrodesis motion.

The invention objective is to enable correction and stable immobilization of the vertebrae by means of preventing rotation in the frontal and sagittal planes.

The above objective is achieved by designing the vertebrae immobilization restraint support as a wedge equipped with a serrated connecting lamella.

Figure 1 depicts a general view of the device; figure 2—the intervertebral space after installation of the lock (front-to-back projection); figure 3 shows the intervertebral space after installation of the lock (side view).

The vertebral column immobilization lock has intervertebral wedge-shaped support 1 whose load-bearing surfaces have stabilizing "herringbone" elements 2 equipped with connecting lamella 3 made as a channel whose flanges have serrated cutting edges with teeth 4. The flanges of connecting plate 3 have holes 5 to allow bone tissue grow through them.

The use of the proposed vertebral column correcting lock is demonstrated using the specific example of radical treatment of a patient with a cyphoscoliotic deformity of the intervertebral joint between the fourth and fifth lumbar vertebrae.

While in the operating room, the patient lying on his back is incubated and given endotracheal anesthesia. Using conventional femoroinguinal retroperitoneal access method, the anterior section of the fourth lumbar intervertebral disk and the body of the fourth and fifth lumbar vertebrae are exposed. The pulpal nucleus tissue and inner sections of fibrous ring of the fourth intervertebral disk are removed but without excision of the elastic plates. To facilitate subsequent immobilizing lock installation, transverse incisions are made in the cortical layer of adjacent vertebrae at a distance from the body edge which corresponds to the distance from the load-bearing surface of the immobilizing lock to the connecting lamella flange.

Then the immobilizing lock is inserted into the intervertebral space using a hammer and an impactor, thus changing the mutual position of adjacent vertebrae into the position that corresponds to the mutual position of the load-bearing surfaces and the height ratio of the anterior and posterior sections of the intervertebral support. Insertion of connecting lamella 3 into the vertebrae body forms secure linkage between the immobilization lock and adjacent vertebrae.

Thus, the innovative design features (wedge-shaped intervertebral support and channel-shaped connecting element) of the proposed correcting immobilization lock ensure optimum anatomic alignment of the adjacent vertebrae bodies while simultaneously stabilizing the arthrodesic segment. Ceramic materials may be used for making the immobilization lock. Thirteen correcting immobilization locks have been fabricated at the institute; they have passed experimental testing and will be used when indicated.

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Deformed vertebral column setting fastener - has wedge shaped
support with toothed coupling plates

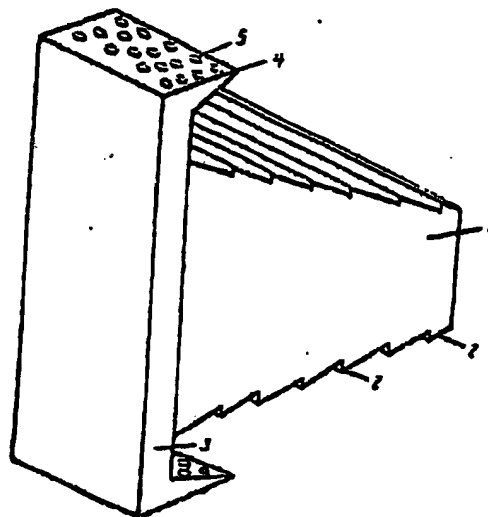
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The vertebral fastener has a support (1) which is positioned between the bodies of the vertebrae and is wedge-shaped with stabilising elements (2) arranged in a 'herringbone' pattern on its bearing surfaces and is equipped with a coupling plate (3) in the form of a channel piece the edges of the shelves of which are cutting edges and are equipped with teeth (4). In the shelves of the coupling plate (3) there are apertures (5) through which bone tissue can grow. The vertebral fastener is made of ceramic material.

Lodging the fastener between the bodies of the vertebrae changes their mutual position in accordance with the position of the bearing surfaces and ratio between the front and back sections of support (1). Lodging the shelves of coupling plate (3) into the the bodies of the vertebrae gives a reliable link between the fastener and vertebrae.

USE - To correct deformities of the vertebral column and assure stable fixation of the vertebrae by preventing rotation in the frontal and sagittal planes. Bul.30/15.8.84 (3pp Dwg.No.1/3)
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